



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554
AUG 4 1998

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CC 247 96-45

ORIGINAL RECEIVED

AUG 12 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Mr. Millard J. Driscoll
301 Driver Avenue
Summerville, SC 29483

Dear Mr. Driscoll:

Thank you for your electronic mail message to President Clinton regarding a "telephone tax" or fee that has been added to some consumers' telephone bills by carriers to recover their contributions to the universal service support mechanisms. The White House has asked me to respond to your inquiry.

On May 7, 1997, the Commission, as required by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (1996 Act), adopted a first Report and Order to implement the Federal-State Joint Board's recommendations on universal service. The Commission established universal service support mechanisms that fulfill Congress's goal, as stated in Section 254 of the 1996 Act, of ensuring that affordable, quality telecommunications services are available to all American consumers, including those located in high cost, rural, and insular areas and low income consumers. In addition, these mechanisms implement Congress's mandate to ensure the nation's classrooms' and libraries' access to the vast array of educational resources that are accessible through the telecommunications network. These support systems also will link health care providers located in rural areas to urban medical centers so that patients living in rural America will have access, through the telecommunications network, to the same advanced diagnostic and other medical services that are available in urban communities.

In the 1996 Act, Congress stated that all telecommunications carriers that provide interstate telecommunications services must contribute on an equitable and nondiscriminatory basis to universal service. The Commission implemented this statutory provision by requiring all telecommunications carriers to contribute to the universal service support mechanisms. Neither Congress, nor the Commission, require carriers to pass this contribution on to their customers. To the contrary, carriers decide how and to what extent they recover their contributions. Carriers, however, may not mislead customers as to how they recover contributions and may only recover an equitable share from any particular customer.

The Commission is monitoring the universal service support mechanisms and their impact on telephone ratepayers. This issue will be carefully reviewed as the support mechanisms are administered.

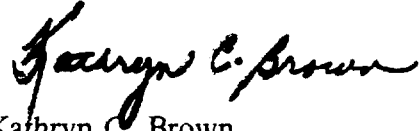
Enclosure
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Mr. Millard J. Driscoll

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Your e-mail has been placed in the official public record of the universal service proceeding (CC Docket No. 96-45). I appreciate your interest in these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kathryn C. Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathryn C. Brown
Chief

Common Carrier Bureau

From nobody@www2.whitehouse.gov Fri Jun 5 17:48:53 1998
Date: Fri, 05 Jun 1998 17:47:45 -0400
From: "Millard J. Driscoll" <mdriscoll@worldnet.att.net>
Subject: Inbound-White House WWW MAIL => PRESIDENT
Apparently-to: president@WhiteHouse.GOV
To: president@WhiteHouse.GOV
Errors-to: The Postmaster <postmaster@www2.whitehouse.gov>
Reply-to: "Millard J. Driscoll" <mdriscoll@worldnet.att.net>
Message-id: <199806052147.RAA04212@www2.whitehouse.gov>

Keywords: WWW-Correspondence; ; Register disagreement with a position; Taxes;
Private Citizen;
Comments: Forwarded from White House WWW
Comments: This message scanned by SCAN version 0.1 jms/960226

[Connection Information]

CLIENT: 190.columbia-02.sc.dial-access.att.net[12.70.41.190]
BROWSER: Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 4.0; Windows 95; AT&T WNS IE4.0)
URL: http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/Mail/html/Mail_President.html

[Sender Information]

PERSONAL-NAME: Millard J. Driscoll
EMAIL-ADDRESS: mdriscoll@worldnet.att.net
ORGANIZATION:
RELATIONSHIP:
STREET-ADDRESS: 301 Driver Ave.
CITY: Summerville
STATE-PROVINCE: SC
ZIP-CODE: 29483
COUNTRY:

[Message Information]

PURPOSE: Register disagreement with a position
TOPIC: Taxes
AFFILIATION: Private Citizen
SUBJECT: VP GORE'S E-TAX

[Message]

Dear Mr. President. I am dismayed that you consider the adding of a TAX to long distance phone bills to be of little importance. This E-TAX pushed by your VP will result in a 5% TAX on my bill! You can call it anything you want but it is a TAX or a FINE for using long distance. If providing schools with the internet is needed, and I don't believe it is, than my elected representatives should decide how to fund it. Having an unelected beaucrocat lefy the TAX is wrong!. I

request you join Sen. Hollings D-SC and do all you can to
remove this TAX.

Sincerely,
Millard J. Driscoll
LCDR MSC USN RET.